

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, March 20, 2013, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
L. Allen Messick, Treasurer	Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.	Henry Poole representing Steve Ditmer, Forestry Council

Absent: William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr., and Robert Emerson.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, Ashley Spangler, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Bill Powers (New Castle County Sixth District Councilman), Gary Warren (Delaware Farm Bureau), Adam Damin (Office of Management and Budget), F. Thomas Unruh, T. Scott Unruh (Delaware Farm Bureau), Ms. Pamela Bakerian (Delaware Farm Bureau), and Ms. Maria Knirk

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m. Secretary Kee asked that the Legislative matter, under Other Business, item 7 be moved to the front of the agenda as he wished to speak on this and could not stay for the entire meeting. Hearing no objections the Chairman decided to consider the Legislation as the first item on the agenda. Secretary Kee then stated that he would be waiving his veto for the District and the Expansions coming before the Board today.

I. Legislation:

Secretary Kee pointed out the three items for discussion: 1) elimination of land adjacent to growth zones being a priority for preservation, 2) elimination of the buy-back provision, and 3) special events on preserved land. These items need to be discussed as there is controversy over them. Secretary Kee then read the letter of Mr. Robert Emerson, a board member who could not be present today. The letter is against the elimination of the prioritization of land adjacent to growth areas.

Michael Parkowski explained that making land that is adjacent to growth zones a priority for preservation does not make it a priority for land in the growth zones. Therefore landowners with land in the growth zones do not benefit in any way from the current legislation. In fact, it may make it more difficult for land in growth zones to come under easement. It was also brought out that land in growth zones is allowed in the Young Farmers Program.

Mr. Scott Unruh then read his letter to the Board which made the same request as Mr. Emerson's letter.

Secretary Kee left the meeting to go to another appointment and discussion continued concerning the prioritization of land adjacent to growth zones. It was decided to table any legislative changes until next year to give the Board a chance to review the proposed changes. New Castle County was encouraged to continue with their county preservation program.

II. Current Situation Report:

Robin West informed the Board that we have a total of 1,116 farms in preservation districts totaling 157,693 acres, with a total of 755 farms under agricultural easements totaling 111,016 acres at a cost of \$198,975,409. For PDR 18, there are a total of 107 farms, comprising 10,164 acres, with a value of \$59,747,386. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. For the Young Farmers Program there are a total of 10 Young Farmers program loans which have settled, with an easement value of \$3,878,524. Fifty prequalification applications have been received so far with only two being unapproved – one due to lack of farming experience and one exceed the maximum (\$300,000) net worth.

II. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short informed the Board that one property in round 2 is dropping out. Three loan applications have been received to date and one more is expected.

III. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that all 330 federal parcels have been visited. The next step is to visit the 664 non-federal parcels.

IV. District Final Approval:

1. Legates Spectrum District, ID#K-12-10-266. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for final approval the Legates Spectrum District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Kirby Home Farms Expansion of the Hering-Lynch District, ID#K-12-12-031F After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Kirby Home Farms Expansion of the Hering-Lynch District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Shady Lane Farms Expansion of the Gallo District, ID#K-12-12-070F. After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, the Shady Lane Farms Expansion of the Gallo District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. Doris Larimore Expansion of the Gallo District, ID#K-12-12-098C. After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Doris Larimore Expansion of the Gallo District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**
4. Downward Expansion of the Dulin Brothers District, ID#K-12-12-120E. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Downward Expansion of the Dulin Brothers District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**
5. Hollett Farm Expansion of the Stayton's District, ID#K-12-12-205Q. After discussion, **William Vanderwende, moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Hollett Farm Expansion of the Stayton's District, ID#K-12-12-205Q, seconded by /Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
6. Vannicola Farms Expansion of the Molasses Street District, ID#S-12-12-138I. After discussion, **Henry Poole moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Vannicola Farms Expansion of the Molasses Street District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
7. Wilsons Farm Expansion of the Warren District, ID#S-12-12-222B. After discussion, **Henry Poole moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Wilsons Farm Expansion of the Warren District, seconded by Allen Messick. Motion unanimously approved.**
8. Myers Racing Stable Expansion of the Molasses Street District, ID#S-12-10-138H. After discussion, **Henry Poole moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Myers Racing Stable Expansion of the Molasses Street District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee previously waived the right of veto for the above District and Expansions.

VII. Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

VIII. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the February 20, 2013 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the February minutes, seconded by Henry Poole. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of February 28, 2013, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of February 28, 2013, \$ 29,844.75 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Roll back taxes received totaled \$197.48 from Kent and Sussex Counties. Interest income was \$13.04, and license plate monies received in February totaled \$350. Expenditures for the month of February totaled \$31,957.26. After discussion, **Allen Messick moved to accept the February financial statement as presented, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Executive Session:

Mr. Parkowski indicated that there was no need for an Executive Session.

XI. Other Business:

1. Wilson Farm

Mr. Austin Short informed the Board that Mrs. Magee wants to sign the proposed lease and has already forwarded payment for the increased rental on the property. Irrigation will be placed on the farm within a year, otherwise the new lease will be void.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on April 17, 2013 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Garey
Chairman